

Working group synthesis

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2019 - 2020

Produced for the World Urban Forum of Abu Dhabi, February 2020
"Cities of opportunities: bridging culture and innovation" and for the
Africa-France Summit for sustainable cities, June 2020

EDITORIAL

Territories are at the heart of the food transition

Urbanization, demographic growth, use of resources, air quality, water and soils, new citizen expectations: these are all factors that question the current food system and should lead to considering new models of production and consumption more respectful of the environment and of our health.

Indeed, how will we be able to sustainably feed 9.5 billion inhabitants in 2050? Can we keep on using resources in the same way we've been doing until now, while the food system already absorbs 75% of clean water yet generates 30% of greenhouse gas emissions? How to stop the destruction of biodiversity?

Faced with the need to find a food system more respectful of the environment, more cohesive and fairer, we must all commit. Many citizen-led initiatives and non-profit organizations opened the way to transition; cities must support them and redefine their policies to contribute to a profound transformation of the food system.

The transition of the food system part of a specific context: the growing urbanization of the world, that poses great challenges, the first of which being the feeding of a constantly increasing population, inequalities of access and environmental challenges. Beyond its nutritive function, the food question must also contribute to objectives of city sustainability and to the reduction of social inequalities. Taking action on the food system of a territory requires thus to develop a transversal reflection including all aspects: economic, social, environment, health-related, educational, urban and cultural.

Challenges related to safer and healthier food of which we know the origin is known and pays farmers better is also a social demand that leads toward more local approaches and new economic models.

Faced with those challenges, urban territories must strengthen their collaboration with peri-urban and rural territories. The alliance between

territories appears like a key condition for the transition toward a more sustainable food and agricultural system.

With a food system now strongly globalized, the activation of all competences and energies, of local authorities, non-profit organizations,

professional organizations and, in fact, of all citizens, is essential to impulse and achieve a transition toward new food systems grounded in our territories. To do so, we need a new compass to define directions and a road map to advance together.

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Co-Pilots



With contributions of



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DE LA TRANSITION
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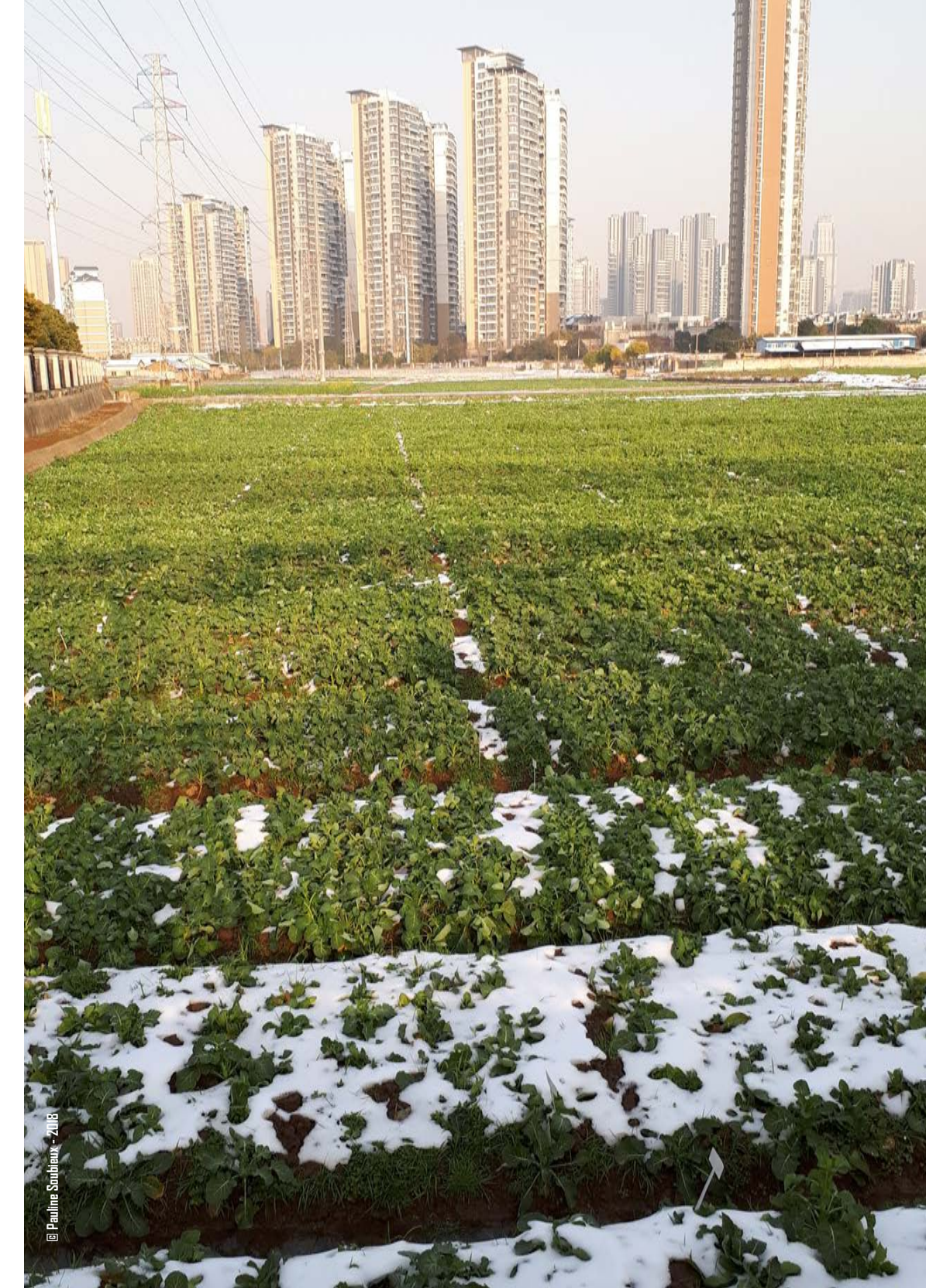
MINISTÈRE
DE LA COHÉSION
DES TERRITOIRES
ET DES RELATIONS
AVEC LES
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PART 1

DEFINITION AND APPROACH

Local authorities, major actors of the necessary food and agricultural transition

Based on the UN projections, the world population could reach 9.7 billion inhabitants in 2050, including 6.6 billion established in cities, meaning 68% in total. Asia will be the biggest basin of population but the African continent will also be especially affected by this massive growth. In the demographic context, most countries see their resources and cultivable land decrease while at the same time great tropical forests, lung of the planet and of humanity, are victim of massive deforestation actions.

Given those demography, urbanization and natural resources availability

projections, the matter of food and agriculture must be thoroughly considered, and transition strategies must be implemented at the local scale by both the actors of food production and the actors of consumption. Local French authorities made the food and agricultural transition one of the major questions they want to discuss in Abu Dhabi and at other great international diplomatic events, because the role of local authorities in this necessary transition is crucial. Through the part they take to urban and land planning, to school and mass catering, to the organization and regulation of food markets, to education and public calls,



local authorities have many levers and tools at their disposal to influence their food system and foster a transition toward an alimentation that's safer, healthier, qualitative, sustainable and accessible to all.

How can we indeed achieve food safety for all, especially in cities, while also respecting principles of a sustainable management of natural resources and fighting against climate change?

Today, we must think about the coherence of food safety for all, about the sustainability of food systems, about the reduction of inequalities, and we must approach economic, social, health, urban and cultural issues in a global way. We won't achieve this goal without a thorough transformation of the food system, which is today globalized, standardized, and which is a big consumer of fossil fuels, synthetic fertilizers and chemical plant and animal-health products. Faced with this system, we know we will need to support at least three great evolutions (and the sooner it will happen, the better): relocation of the food system, as much as possible and necessary; agroecological evolution of the agricultural production; need to create policies that foster access for all to food that's sufficient in quantity and quality. The world market currently ruling the food system doesn't use any measurement tools that could point into any of these 3 directions.

Only local authorities and in particular territorial authorities can orchestrate such a transition and activate all actors of the food system, especially citizen-consumers. This activation action implies to help with the implementation of innovating and diversified experiences on urban territories, with the valorization of initiatives led by local actors, and with the diversity of food governance types, public policies and territorial dynamics. Cities that propose pioneering initiatives appear like important actresses of the food system transition. They show that solutions do exist, and that these solutions only await to grow and multiply, provided the environment is made suitable for it to happen.

The food question goes beyond urban territories only. Cities need an agricultural and food basin much broader than their own territories. We must ensure the complementarity between urban, peri-urban and rural territories of production. Rural areas need urban food demand to grow, but metropolises need the vitality of rural areas to meet their food needs. Metropolises, which count for a big part of the food demand, play a key role in the food transition and in the claim for sustainable and inclusive development of territories. As to urban farming, it has to play an important educational role to give meaning to the need to re-vegetate urban spaces and to strengthen inclusion and social link. School gardens for kids and shared gardens for all city inhabitants can play this role. In



some cities, such gardens also have a complementarity supply function.

The reterritorialization of the food system, the agroecological transformation of the agricultural production and the requirements of food democracy imply a systemic action relying on several axes:

- the environment, through the development of sustainable farming practices and organic supply systems, through the creation of circular economies and through the fight against food waste;
- urban planning and development, through the protection of agricultural lands and natural resources;
- the food economy, through the help to the structuration of food chains grounded in territories, the development of local food systems and through an offer of good quality local products;
- nutrition and health, by educating and raising awareness among consumers about the benefit of quality food and the importance of nutrition challenges, through health professionals' training, and through an ensured access to quality food;
- cultural and gastronomic dimension of food, through the promotion and support of local and traditional savoir-faire and products.

The reterritorialization of the agricultural and food system thus implies a revival

of local food economies. Through this process, territories will be able to become the driving force of their own economic development and to revive their cultural identities.

These necessary food and agriculture transitions suggest reaffirming cultural identities on the territories and calling for technical and social innovation. Such movements have already started and can be witnessed in all territories. Pioneers are already walking very different transition paths. Such small step transitions build plural cities. They show that a radical transition is possible. It is now the responsibility of political leaders to launch active policies and to open the door, widely and for all, to a responsible and sustainable food system.

In the context of a globalized food system, all local authorities are called to take part to this great transition and to operate a grounding process in their own territories, local and national. This parallel approach and the diversity of paths to be explored as well as the landscapes or contexts to be crossed, give a special value to exchanges and cooperation between local authorities from various countries and continents. Those exchanges and collaborations are source of enrichment and a sign of cohesion; but beyond bi-lateral cooperation, local authorities must, together, plead during public debates and at international negotiations in favor



of the territories, of diversity and of this transition. Cities and regions of France are ready to participate as actively as

possible to international actions of exchanges, cooperation and advocacy work.







PART 2

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXAMPLES

Recommendation 1

Ensure a quantity and quality supply for cities and territories.

Emphasize the local scale

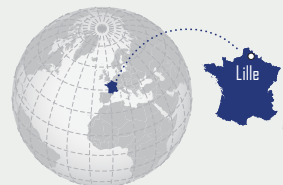
Ensure access to healthy, sustainable, more local and agroecological food; consult and involve citizens; fight against food insecurity; promote cultural diversity and of food heritage.

PROJECT

Involving inhabitant in the food strategy

As part of its food strategy, the Lille European Metropolis (MEL) led a concertation with its citizens to allow their expression, target challenges, assess the MEL's actions and define orientations. Mobilizing various means (web page, online surveys, interactive mapping, participative workshops, report sessions), this concertation led to the

structuration of orientations about the food strategy. (Lille - FRANCE)



www.lillemetropole.fr/en



Lean on new tools

Adjust the offer and demand of food products (Market of national interest, digital platforms, local and open markets, establishment of contracts between producers and consumers). Improve the supply process of mass catering organizations.



PROJECT

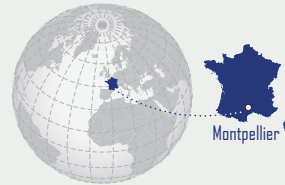
Open Food France, a platform to support innovating initiatives



This platform links producers and buyers. It enables the multiplication of partnerships to organize a shared governance between actors and to facilitate shorter circuits. It also allows an improvement of the added value's repartition along the supply chain. (FRANCE)

www.openfoodfrance.org

The MIN, vector of short circuits



The “Market of national interest” (MIN - Marché d'intérêt national) is a key tool of the agroecological policy to grow healthy and sustainable food coming from local productions, while at the same time contributing to economic development and to local employment.

This new service answers on the one hand the evolution of local consumption, and on the other allows producers to quickly access a diversified base of professional clients. (Montpellier - FRANCE)

www.mercadis.net

A co-developed global strategy

Ensure the complementarity between various territories of production (urban, peri-urban and rural) and ensure an optimal land and landscape management, as part of an alliance between territories.

Promote inclusive forms of governance.

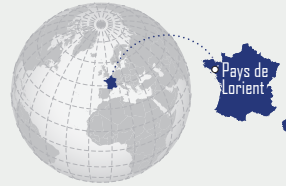


PROJECT

The agriculture and food charter: an open governance

As part of its agriculture and food charter, the Urban community of Pays de Lorient intends to “grow quality food, of which the responsibility incurs to all actors along the food chain, from producer to consumer.”

A “territorial food project” (PAT - *projet alimentaire territorial*) was implemented in 2016, based on an open governance process relying on the agriculture and food council, which brings together local authorities, the chamber of agriculture and partners of the charter, “challenge” workshops and project



leaders. Two activity axes were defined. The first one, “economic”, gathered economic operators and professional organizations, the second one, and “awareness and social accessibility”, brought together citizen organizations and social organisms, among others. (Pays de Lorient - FRANCE)

www.lorient-agglo.bzh

Support innovating practices

Protect farming land, facilitate the establishment of young farmers and the launch of young local initiatives.

PROJECT

Support urban entrepreneurship and urban savoir-faire in the cities

As part of the SESAME project, several educational programs were implemented to support urban and peri-urban farming in cities:

- Starting an urban farming company, targeting agricultural high schools
- Challenges and leverages of urban

farming, targeting local authorities’ leaders and technicians.

This project was meant to improve the competences of the targeted audiences and to integrate those modules within existing programs.

www.fermesdavenir.org





Recommendation 2

Make sustainable food a cornerstone of territorial development that relies on the food system relocation.

Relocate the food system at a local level

Revive territorial food economies, promote decent local employment and local revenue sharing.

Help to include people in precarious situations.

Protect our resources

Promote food systems that focus on sustainable management of natural resources and enable soils fertility, water quality, control of greenhouse emissions and urban revegetation.

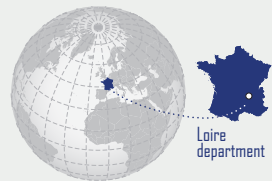


PROJECT

Protection perimeters of agricultural, natural and forest areas (PAEN – périmètre de protection des espaces agricoles, naturels et forestiers)

PAEN, which translates into “protection perimeter of agricultural, natural and forest areas”, is a planning tool that combines land protection and action programs. In the Loire, between Lyon’s and Saint-Etienne’s urban areas, an action program implemented between 2011 and 2015 was allowed the following accomplishments:

- strengthened the local farming economy (preservation of viable peri-urban farming, development of short-circuits, promotion of local products, transmission of farming businesses...);
- improved the conditions of farming businesses (land protection, rehabilitation



- of abandoned lots, improvement of co-living conditions...);
- improved the protection of natural environments and landscapes (restauration of forest networks, development of pond zones, development of the areas around the farms...).

(Loire department - FRANCE)

www.loire.fr





Take action to modify food habits

Fight climate change and promote circular economy (fight against food waste, waste recycling).

PROJECT

Bikes to collect and recycle organic waste

The “Tricyclerie” project in Nantes is an ecological, innovating and local solution in an urban area intended for a better recycling of organic waste in the city center. It consists in a fleet of cargo-bikes used to collect the restaurants’ unsold stocks to feed the local producers’ compost. This simple project combines selective sorting of waste,

recycling and use of a ‘soft’ transportation mean (bikes). (Nantes - FRANCE)



www.latricyclerie.fr





Recommendation 3

Facilitate innovations that serve the food transition and fight the negative externalities.

Place citizens and local authorities at the heart of the process

Identify, monitor and foster innovating initiatives led by inhabitants and/or actors of the food chain as well as strategies developed by local authorities to facilitate the food transition.

Strengthen public policies that support the food transition.



PROJECT

A consultative council for a sustainable food governance

This organization aims to co-develop a food policy adapted to local problematics, by involving many territorial actors (public, private, non-profit).

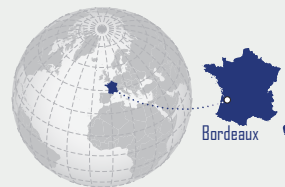
The goal is to relocate the food system and enable access for all to quality and sustainable food.

This tool of citizen participation allows to answer the inhabitants' food expectations as accurately as possible.

This consultative council is also open to

actors of neighboring territories to build a cohesive territorial approach.

(Bordeaux - FRANCE)



www.bordeaux-metropole.fr



PROJECT

RESOLIS Observatory: documenting the transition in order to support it

Since 2013, the RESOLIS organization leads the “responsible and fair food” program (Alimentation Responsable et Durable). It relies on an online observatory which currently draws together more than 700 initiatives (350 of which are French) in 11 different countries. Whether they are led by public actors or citizens, these registered initiatives all represent possible paths toward the food transition. Mapping and summarizing the dynamics happening in



those territories not only means promoting them, it also means laying the foundations for possible cooperation and calling out to public authorities to reinforce their support to food transition and to the organizations leading pioneering initiatives in the field. (FRANCE)

www.resolis.org/uk

Educate and empower actors

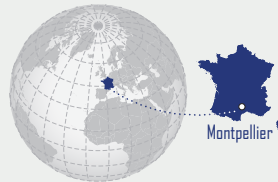
Multiply actions to raise awareness, educate, communicate and advocate, depending on the audiences.

Promote actions that foster participation on experimentation-territories (shared gardens, school gardens, peri-urban gardens).

PROJECT

Support joint initiatives

Terracoopa is a joint initiative led by a regional non-profit and a local non-profit and which supports the creation of jobs related to organic farming and short circuits. They manage a land on which young farmers can get started their exploitation on a limited period of time, autonomously, in order to limit their risk taking. It enables them to assess



the project and to assess their capacity to maintain the activity outside of the test-territory. (Montpellier - FRANCE)

www.terracoopa.net





Recommendation 4

Promote national and international cooperations actions between local authorities at various scales.

Consolidate synergies between actors and between territories

Develop exchanges between similar territories and synergies between territories of different scales. Promote an optimal division of competences and responsibilities between territories thanks to forward-thinking decentralization policies in the agricultural and food sectors.



PROJECT

The MADRE project: territorial cooperation to change the metropolitan food system in the Mediterranean areas.

Project of knowledge capitalization about the role of urban and peri-urban farming in 6 metropolitan areas: Marseille, Montpellier, Barcelona, Bologna, Tirana, Thessaloniki.

Expected results: consolidation of the existing knowledge on good practices thanks to a shared transnational catalog used as a collective educational tool.

Strengthen the capacity of urban and peri-urban farming networks at local, regional and national levels.

Initiate the construction of a Mediterranean national cluster of the actors involved in urban and peri-urban farming.

Create a web platform to connect urban farming actors with food systems in the Mediterranean area.

www.avitem.org/en



TOOL

National network for a territorial food project (RnPAT – Réseau national pour un Projet alimentaire territorial)

The RnPAT aims to connect all actors of the food system to facilitate the co-construction and shared implementation of Territorial food projects.

On the 2018-2021 period, the RnPAT is articulated around 5 axes:

- raise awareness among actors about the sustainable food challenges and about PATs;
- capitalize knowledge about PATs and assessing them;
- guide actors in the conception and implementation of their PATs;
- innovate in strategic sectors (economy, social, urban planning);
- contribute to the coherence of policies at different scales and between territories.

www.rnpat.fr

Strengthen cooperation actions

Develop actions of decentralized cooperation as part of a partnership between territories, in relation with the aforementioned topics.



PROJECT

Rehabilitation of central markets

In a context where informal businesses, the lack of hygiene and the state of equipment accentuates the spread of pandemics, a rehabilitation project was launched in 2013, co-funded by AFD, the State of Madagascar, the city of Mahajanga and the city of Mulhouse.

The results were clear: global improvement of hygiene conditions thanks to the installation of lavatories and cleaning system, global improvement of the commercial organization and of the surrounding markets resulting



also in a better readability of the offer, and then implementation of a new management method with the creation of a market department and the inclusion of business owners to the decision-making process. (Mahajanga - MADAGASCAR)

www.afd.fr/en





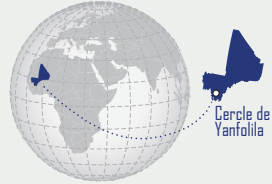
PROJECT

Foster a sustainable and inclusive development

Strictly agricultural activities are intended for personal consumption or for the supply of local markets, but gold extractions impact the environment and the populations on the long term.

The Haut-Rhin department and AFDI68, followed by Gedev, are involved with the Yanfolila Circle to bolster the capacities of local actors and to facilitate a sustainable and inclusive territorial development, adapted to the needs of the local population.

The goals are diversification and improvement



the quality of agricultural products, support the economic inclusion of women and the youth to rural employment, and support the structuration of local actors.
(Cercle de Yanfolila - MALI)

www.gescad.org





Turn local authorities into key actors

Develop advocacy actions meant to be heard by national and international public authorities. Strengthen the voice of territorial collectivities and of their representatives in international negotiations and debates.

PROJECT

The Milan Agreement

Launched in 2015, the Milan Agreement invited cities of the world to develop innovative agroecological policies and food policies.

Initially signed by 47 cities, the agreement now counts more than 200 of them from all continents.

Each year, a summit is organized for cities to exchange and identify good practices, in order to develop resilient, sustainable and diversified food systems accessible to all.

This year, several add-ons were included, such as the necessity to activate actors of the food sector to ensure hygiene and food safety or to do away with plastic.

This Agreement also aims to encourage inter-ministerial and cross-sectorial coordination at city and community levels, by focusing the effort on including matters of urban food to social, economic and environmental policies and programs.

PROJECT

Declaration of France Urbaine, for a transition in favor of sustainable, responsible and solidary food

Late December 2018, 75 of France Urbaine members (agglomeration, metropolis and big cities) signed this declaration as a testimony of a collective movement in favor of a transition of our food and agricultural systems. The declaration includes a list of

local and international commitments that will serve as basis for a roadmap explaining its implementation and placing urban territories at the heart of the food transition, at all scales of the negotiations and of the decision-making processes.

www.franceurbaine.org





CONCLUSION

Key-words

-Urban farming
- Territorially-grounded food systems
- Solidarities
- Resilience
- Agricultural land management
- Short circuit.....○

Memo

At the crossover of key contemporary challenges, the transition of the food and agricultural systems requires a strong mobilization of many actors, among who local authorities and especially cities come first and play a central role.

Our choice to bring forward the idea of this transition is to signify that our cities and rural areas all wish for a revival of their local economies and for an activation and promotion of their natural, human and cultural resources. But this choice is also made to claim that humanity and the planet have a need for a different globalization : one closer to local territories, born from collaboration

between urban and rural territories, and far from the single and ruling model that ignores the world's diversity and the diversity of local ecosystems. To us, cities and regions must seize all opportunities to defend a collaborative globalization, enriched by the diversity of local territories, societies and cultures. Local authorities are getting organized to bolster the development of good practices and to advocate in favor of territories, diversity and transition.

Such advocacy must emanate from municipal and regional policies that must show an effort to support the dynamics of transition happening on urban and rural territories. Indeed, many citizens,





non-profits, professional organizations and economic actors are already engaged on this road to transition. These pioneering actors are the true builders of a new emerging system, more sustainable, more inclusive, more cohesive and fairer. Local authorities take a big part in this great transition movement, already solidly rooted, and being developed thanks to the creativity of actors on the field and to the diversity of their initiatives.

Within this great movement of environmental and fair and cohesive transition, the food and agricultural transitions are a main driving force. The food system is a laboratory used to research solutions for many great current challenges of development, employment and environment. The solutions that first appear at the small scale don't only introduce a new single model; they introduce, rather, a world of diversity, resulting from the diversity of natural and social environments.

Local authorities are closely involved

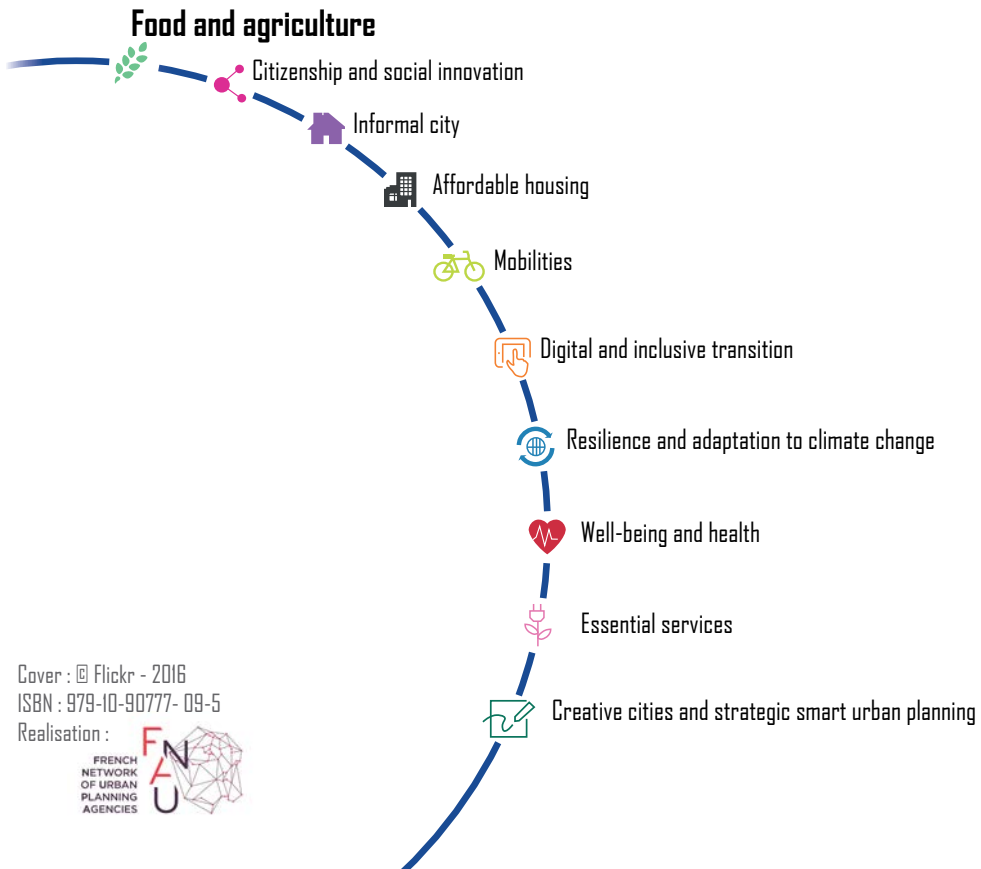
in these transition dynamics. they support them through public policies. They must continue the dialogue with national public authorities and convince them that this transition is already happening on their territories. Given the economic, social and environmental emergencies, a new divide of roles and responsibilities is mandatory. To embrace their responsibility in fostering both this transition (especially the food and agricultural transition) and the emergence of a new type of globalization, local authorities must be granted more leeway, in a spirit of dialogue, autonomy and responsibility.

To be made possible, indeed, the emergence of a new world needs a 'new deal' of competences and responsibilities. Local authorities are at the crossroad of those who lay the foundations of a sustainable and inclusive development at the local scales, and those who, at the global scale, create the rules of a wider collaboration between local territories.





Started in 2011, the **French partnership for cities and territories (PFVT – Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires)** is a platform meant for the exchange and valorization of the French urban actor's expertise at the international level. It is a multi-actor partnership headed by Hubert Julien-Laferrière, Member of Parliament, supported by the Ministry of Europe and of foreign affairs, the Ministry of territorial cohesion, the Ministry of the ecologic and fair transition, and the Ministry of culture. It brings together close to 200 organizations representing the diversity of the French expertise, contributing to the construction of a shared French vision based on a capitalization of exchanges and of innovative and sustainable experiences.



Cover : @ Flickr - 2016
ISBN : 979-10-90777-09-5
Realisation :

